

EmP03 – Spillage of Potential Pollutants

What needs to be done?

The following actions need to be taken when spillages occur that may have the potential to damage the environment:

1. Once identified, the spillage shall be assessed and the situation reported to the site management immediately
2. Whilst assessing the situation, consider what the source of the pollutant may be and its potential to soak into the ground or into a watercourse. If possible, identify whether the spillage has ceased or if it is continuing to flow, and whether it is safe to stop it
3. The relevant supervisor should decide what resources are required to ensure the incident is dealt with efficiently
4. If appropriate, consult the specific spillage procedure for the chemical concerned, and follow the actions identified
5. Small spillages of oils and fuels should be dealt with by spreading absorbent granules or sand and excavating the area affected
6. For large spillages, a barrier should be created to prevent any pollutants from reaching any water course, drain or sewer. The use of absorbent materials, booms etc should be used to contain and absorb the spillage
7. Ensure senior management have been informed of the incident and evaluate whether the incident is reportable to the Environment Agency or other regulatory bodies
8. If necessary, arrange for appropriate liquid waste disposal contractors to attend the site and clear the spillage
9. Where the spillage has been contained and absorbed with absorbent materials/booms/sand/rock dust/the ground, such contaminated materials should be collected/excavated and stored in appropriate containment to prevent further pollution, and segregated from other wastes
10. It may be necessary to sample the contaminated material and have it tested to ascertain whether it is considered hazardous
11. Once the nature of the material has been determined, it should be taken to an appropriate disposal/recycling facility, by a suitably licensed registered waste carrier, as soon as reasonably practicable
12. When practicable, the incident must be formally investigated, recorded and reported using the appropriate forms, including circulation to the relevant authorities
13. Monitor the condition of the site to ensure all the corrective actions have been effective.



Telephone numbers:

Emergency services:

Environment Agency:

Responsible manager:

Managing director:

Geotechnical engineer/advisor:

Associated documentation

Forms

- EF03 – Internal Communication
- EF15 – Incident Investigation

